



East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area's unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in June to 3 percent as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1. With seasonal conditions shifting from spring to summer and most schools on break, construction and business support jobs increased. Seasonal government and tourism jobs also began to grow in anticipation of the summer.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Most counties throughout east central Idaho are reporting strong residential and commercial construction as the population and economic boom continues.

Bonneville County

- Grow Idaho Falls Inc. held its Investor's Breakfast on Aug. 1 to discuss growth in Bonneville County and projects currently under way. In addition to tax increment financing and other incentives, representatives from Ball Ventures Development, McNeil Development and Conrad & Bischoff discussed urban renewal district developments in partnership with the city such as Taylor Crossing on the River, Snake River Landing and the super Wal-Mart/Olive Garden area. Steve Carr from Downtown Development talked about projects under way in historic downtown Idaho Falls. Revitalization of the area is on track because of the steps being taken to keep downtown alive and attract visitors, which has residents taking more pride in their community and using it more.
- Construction of the new Rimrock and Woodland Hills elementary schools will not be finished in time for the first day of school. The com-

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Jun 2006*	May 2006	Jun 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	61,780	62,280	59,990	-0.8	3.0
Unemployment	1,940	1,870	1,930	3.7	0.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%		
Total Employment	59,830	60,400	58,060	-0.9	3.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	62,820	62,050	61,170	1.2	2.7
Unemployment	1,690	1,480	1,670	14.2	1.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7%	2.4%	2.7%		
Total Employment	61,130	60,570	59,500	0.9	2.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	55,499	54,420	52,902	2.0	4.9
Goods-Producing Industries	7,879	7,491	7,523	5.2	4.7
Natural Resources & Mining	59	56	54	5.4	9.3
Construction	4,479	4,161	4,214	7.6	6.3
Manufacturing	3,341	3,274	3,255	2.0	2.6
Food Manufacturing	1,075	1,056	1,078	1.8	-0.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	273	269	217	1.5	25.8
Machinery Manufacturing	151	150	152	0.7	-0.7
Other Manufacturing	1,842	1,799	1,819	2.4	1.3
Service-Providing Industries	47,620	46,929	45,379	1.5	4.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,729	13,552	12,927	1.3	6.2
Wholesale Trade	4,354	4,295	4,001	1.4	8.8
Retail Trade	7,640	7,592	7,313	0.6	4.5
Utilities	56	58	57	-3.4	-1.8
Transportation	1,679	1,607	1,556	4.5	7.9
Information	1,192	1,195	1,088	-0.3	9.6
Financial Activities	2,119	2,111	2,031	0.4	4.3
Professional & Business Services	9,958	9,681	9,165	2.9	8.7
Educational & Health Services	7,014	6,937	6,725	1.1	4.3
Leisure & Hospitality	4,623	4,482	4,465	3.1	3.5
Other Services	2,006	2,020	1,972	-0.7	1.7
Government Education	3,494	3,613	3,469	-3.3	0.7
Government Administration	3,485	3,338	3,537	4.4	-1.5

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

pletion date has been moved to Sept. 5 – almost two weeks after secondary schools start. To keep children from going additional days or foregoing planned vacation days, the Bonneville Joint School District #93 will extend the school day an extra seven to ten minutes for the 2006-2007 school year. The actual completion date will determine how many additional minutes will be required.

- A manufacturing company from Boise recently moved to Idaho Falls. Now Disc has been in operation for the past 10 years, spe-

cializing in custom printing, packaging and manufacturing CDs and DVDs with turnaround time as fast as 24 hours. The company employs 20.

- Melaleuca Inc. is building a 25,000 square-foot hangar on the south end of Idaho Falls Regional Airport to house two company jets and to include 3,000 square feet of office space.
- The Post Register is building a 26,824 square-foot production and distribution facility at 2430 Boge Ave. near the Idaho Research Center. Concrete has already been poured.
- Hilton Gardens is being built along the Snake River on Lindsay Boulevard in Idaho Falls. The 104-room hotel with a 3,000 square-foot conference room is going up where the Stardust Motor Lodge used to be. The site includes two restaurant pads. Ball Ventures is the developer.

Fremont County

- St. Anthony's Business and Industrial Park is under construction. The new Summit Truss building, which sits on 10 acres, is almost finished and another 29 one-acre lots are available for development. DePacto is doing most of the infrastructure, and Intermountain Gas and Fall River Rural Electric will bring in utilities. The new park sits near Stanford Field just south of St. Anthony.

Jefferson County

- Part of Challenger Pallet and Supply burned in late July, causing more than \$2 million in damage. The large manufacturing building was the only facility damaged. However, the 45 employees did not get much time off. They were back to work within 24 hours at three facilities including one in Salt Lake City and another in Three Forks, Mont. The Grant manufacturing building has been in operation since 1972. The company hopes to have the facility fully operational in three months.
- USDA Rural Development approved a \$1 million grant for the city of Rigby along with another \$3

million in loans for a much needed wastewater treatment plant. Another \$4 million came from the state Department of Environmental Quality. The projected cost of the facility is \$9.5 million. The city has been cited for numerous violations over the past four years. The new system is expected to handle expected growth until 2030.

Teton County

- Kurt Hibbert has been hired to oversee planning and zoning in Teton County. Hibbert had most recently been the city of Rexburg's planning and zoning administrator and was the city's first planner. Since Madison, Fremont and Teton counties are all tied together in regional planning, he still plans to have an association with Rexburg. He brings with him a community oriented perspective on growth and long-term planning that can avoid crisis-driven decisions.
- Huntsman Springs, a new residential/commercial development by Jon Huntsman, who ranked 198 on Forbes 2005 richest Americans list, is under way on 1,341 acres between Driggs and Victor. Huntsman Springs will include detached town homes, custom homes, cabins and a hotel, golf course and wellness/fitness center. A wetland conservation area and buffalo park will also be included. A thousand cutthroat trout and 3,000 pheasants have been released on the property. Although still in its early stages, the development is getting national attention. Huntsman recently talked about it with Forbes Magazine. Huntsman is also building a new courthouse for Teton County as part of the land deal. The area is becoming more popular for second or vacation homes.

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